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32. *KOSTELETZKYA VITIFOLIUS* (LINN.) COMB. NOV.

(With a text-figure)

Borssum (1966) places *Hibiscus vitifolius* Linn. under genus *Hibiscus* section *Pterocarpus* Garcke (1849). He mentions *H. vitifolius* Linn. as the type of the section *Pterocarpus* Garcke (1849).

Borssum (1966), has not mentioned the type species of *Kosteletzkya* Presl.

Mattei (1917), in fact had suggested separating Garcke's section *Pterocarpus* into a separate genus. After publication of *Kosteletzkya* Presl. (1835), Kearney (1955), thought perhaps *H. vitifolius* L. can be considered as belonging to a separate genus (sect. *Pterocarpus* Garcke), intermediate between *Hibiscus* and *Kosteletzkya*.

Bentham and Hooker (1862), listed 26 species under *Kosteletzkya*. After considering facts it is clear that Hochreutiner (1955) was correct considering sect. *Eucosteletzkya* Hochr. as identical with herbaceous species of sect. *Pterocarpus* and can be separated on the basis of alate or angular capsules.

Genus *Kosteletzkya* Presl. (1835) was originally described and accepted by Hochr. (1955) with respect to the alate or angular capsules.

However, Borssum (1966) emphasised the character of single ovule per carpel in 5-carpellate ovary. This differentiation on the basis of 1-seeded carpels in *Kosteletzkya* in comparison to 2-5 seeds

per carpel in *Hibiscus* is definitely an artificial generic segregation. If *Kosteletzkya* is segregated on the basis of single seed, then genus *Hibiscus* L. will have to be divided at least into 3 more genera on the basis of the number of seeds per carpel. Seeds in various species of *Wissandia* Medik. vary from 1-3 per carpel. Similarly *Abutilon* Gaertn. also contains species with 1 to many seeds. With the segregation character adopted by Borssum, these genera will require to be divided into more genera. Hochreutiner (1955), included species with alate and angular seeds under genus *Hibiscus* sect. *Eucosteletzkya* Hochr. including species resembling *Hibiscus* sect. *Pterocarpus* Hochr.

Therefore the genus *Kosteletzkya* should be restricted to the species with angular capsules and not to the species with single seeded capsules as suggested by Borssum.

Therefore, the following new combination has been proposed:

*Kosteletzkya vitifolius* (Linn.) Almeida & Patil.

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- \* GARCKE, A. (1849): Kritische Bemerkungen Zuder familiae der Mavaceen nebst Benschreibung neuer Artenaus derselben. Bot. Zeit. 7: 836.

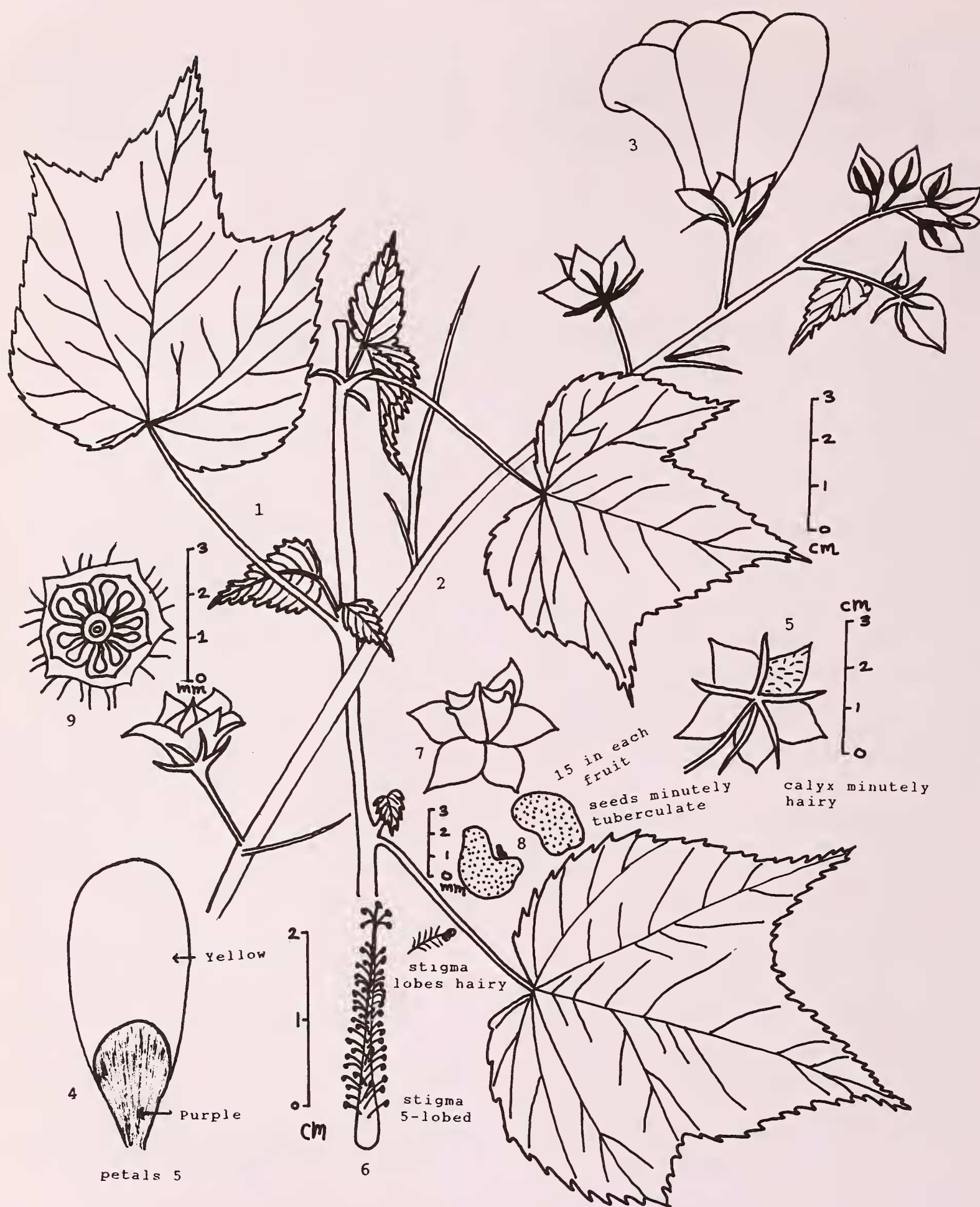


Fig. 1. *Kosteletzkyia vitifolia* (Linn.) comb. nov.

1. & 2. Twig; 3. flower; 4. petal; 5. calyx; 6. staminal column; 7. fruit; 8. seeds; 9. pistil, t.s.

\*HOCHREUTINER, B.P.G. (1955): Flora de Madag. et des Comores. Fam. 129: 98.

\*KEARNEY, T.H. (1955): Leaflet. West. Bot. 7: 272-273.

\*MATTEI, C. (1917): Bol. Ort. Bot. Palermo n.s. 2: 71.

\*PRESL, K.B. (1835): Reliq. Haenk. 2: 130, t. 70.

\* Not referred in original.